



SENTENCING IN WISCONSIN

Snapshots of Information on Wisconsin Sentencing

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Justice Data & Information Resources

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The criminal justice system includes a variety of stages and steps – from charge and arrest to sentencing and incarceration. In an effort to better understand the various components and their related data, the Wisconsin Sentencing Commission created the Justice Data and Information Resources tool. This Snapshot provides an overview of the online tool, as well as the resources used in its creation.

The Justice Data & Information Resources tool builds upon the Justice System Flowchart (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/largechart.htm>) created by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The Commission streamlined the original flowchart and reduced the number of sections to seven; each representing a major component of the justice process. The Commission's presents a simplified view of case flow information by highlighting important actors and actions associated with each step.

Unlike the Justice System Flowchart that links to BJS publications, the Commission's tool provides links to a variety of justice agencies and information. Both resources provide a straight forward presentation of the criminal justice process, but it is the Commission's hope that this tool better assist users in locating Wisconsin-specific information. The Justice Data and Information Resources tool is organized by seven main categories:

1. **Entry into System**
2. **Prosecution & Pretrial Services**
3. **Adjudication/Criminal Case Processing**
4. **Sentencing & Sanctions**
5. **Corrections**
6. **Reentry into Community**
7. **Victim Advocacy**

Each category represents a step within the criminal justice process and includes several sub-categories. For example; the *Sentencing & Sanctions* category includes four sub-categories:

- A. **Sentencing**
- B. **Appeal**
- C. **Intermediate Sanctions**
- D. **Conviction**

Numerous resources were utilized in creating the Justice Data and Information Resources tool, including multiple state agencies. Wisconsin's Office of Justice Assistance -- Statistical Analysis Center provides information covering several different categories. Wisconsin specific information also includes the Sheriff's Association, the Department of Transportation, Department of Justice, Department of Corrections and the Professional Police Association among others.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (a division of the U.S. Department of Justice) provides national information for most categories and sub-categories. The FBI and the federal court system are also important sources of information.

The Justice Data and Information Resources tool can be found on the Commission's website in the "Data Resources" section. Ideally, the tool will serve as a convenient and easy-to-use source for most state and national justice-related information and data.

The Wisconsin Sentencing Commission periodically publishes "Sentencing in Wisconsin" to provide the public, state courts, and policymakers data on state sentencing practices. For other publications, or more information about the Commission, see its website, <http://wsc.wi.gov>